

Dear Legislators-

I am writing to you because I have grave concerns about the proposed S.B. No. 184 and H.B. No. 5262 pertaining to our elections and absentee voting. First let's admit that the COVID-19 pandemic phase is over. Even our federal government has now started to move into a phase of living with this virus. We now have the tools to keep ourselves safe – including masks, vaccines, therapeutics, etc. If we are moving on with our lives and keeping businesses and schools open then we need to move on with people getting back to in person voting when they are able to. We already had the means to request absentee ballots as part of our state constitution. We all have responsibilities as citizens of this great country and if one legitimately cannot vote in person then they need to follow the procedures to obtain an absentee ballot. Rather than wasting more tax payer dollars and sending out mail-in ballots to every registered voter why doesn't the state educate their registered voters on how to properly request an absentee ballot? The state of CT currently does not have the means to even verify each voter on election day. Some towns request a picture id and others do not. We can't even prove who filled out a mail-in ballot. Elections should be taken seriously. We take an individual buying alcohol or cigarettes more seriously than voting – both of those require showing a valid id. Let's fix this system, not create more problems.

This should be a concern to each and every citizen and legislator, no matter their political affiliation. Every election day there are local, state, and federal elections that come down to only a few votes between candidates. Let's protect and secure our election integrity, not open it up for questioning each year.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Katrina Toce
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